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## COAL MEASURES OF LYON COUNTY.

BY D. S. KELLY, EMPORIA, KANSAS.

Lyon county is situated near the center of the vast region of Kansas known as the Upper Coal Measures, and near the eastern border of the division of these measures sometimes called the Permian strata. This county is as far west as we should expect to find coal outcrops in this latitude. Many attempts were made to find coal in this county before the efforts met with anything like success. About eight years ago borings were made near Emporia which resulted in failure to find coal, except some very thin layers. Along ravines, in various parts of the county, outcrops may be found which show evidences of coal, but not until within the last two or three years have any of these proved workable coal-bearing strata. The first opened which yield coal in any paying quantities are those in the eastern part of the county, near Neosho Rapids, of which mention is made in the State Agricultural Report for 1885.

Within the past year coal has been found at a number of places in the northern part of the county. On the farm of Henry King, eight miles north and two miles east of Emporia, veins nine inches thick have been reported. Near the new town of Admire, recently, on sinking a shaft to the depth of twenty-eight feet, coal of good quality was found to be seventeen inches thick.

For some time past it has been thought that coal existed in paying quantities near Emporia. Four years ago an unsuccessful attempt to find coal was made about three miles to the northwest of Emporia. No further attempts were made in that direction, until a short time ago a company of three men, Wise, Fritz, and Reeves, leased a number of acres a little to the northwest of the place mentioned above. About two months ago they began to drive tunnels into the hill from a ravine, and met with encouraging results. A few days ago I visited these mines, and found that four tunnels had been driven into the hill at short distances apart, the longest one being 175 feet. Nowhere has the vein of workable coal been less than eleven inches. At some places it seems to have been thrown up in folds, where it is seventeen inches thick. The quality of this coal, for some distance in, is about the same as the Fort Scott red coal; then a black coal is reached, which compares favorably in quality to the Osage shaft coal. The men who are in charge of this work are very confident that the enterprise will be a paying one, and expect soon to put a force of thirty or forty men at work.

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF GEOLOGICAL WORK IN THE STATE OF KANSAS.

BY ROBERT HAY, U.S.G.S., AND A. H. THOMPSON, D.D.S.

Being in the center of the continent, touching the great river Missouri, and having within its borders several important tributaries that find their way to that stream or the greater Mississippi, Kansas has been oftentimes on the route of explorers. Some geological features and some of the minerals of its formations have had notice from the earliest times.

In 1724 De Bourgmont, a Frenchman, passed up the Kaw valley, and the very slight notice he makes of mineralogy enables us to see that he saw those glacial boulders which are found in the northeast of the State. His words are (London translation of Du Pratz Hist. of Louisiana, 1763):

“ One could observe pieces of rock, even with the ground, . . . and in the meadows a reddish